

# Birds from Bintang Island in the Rhio Archipelago

By F. N. CHASEN

Pulau Bintang is the largest island in the Rhio Archipelago. Its nearest point is twelve miles from the eastern corner of Johore at the southern extremity of the Malay Peninsula and although of irregular shape it may be said to be contained in a thirty mile square.

The island has been visited by zoological collectors on several occasions and although odd notes on its birds are included in a number of papers no account or list of its avifauna has ever been published.

Dr. W. L. Abbott made a collection of birds there in 1902, but it remains in the United States National Museum unstudied in detail.

Another small collection was made by Messrs. H. C. Robinson and E. Seimund of the Federated Malay States Museums Department in 1908, but again no list of the birds was published and they are now either incorporated in the general collection in the Raffles Museum, or no longer in our possession. By searching through the registers of the Selangor Museum we have been able to compile and append a list of birds obtained on various islands of the Rhio Archipelago during the 1908 visit.<sup>1</sup>

The present collection was made by three native collectors of the Raffles Museum who visited the island for three weeks in May and June, 1930. Mr. H. Baker, a rubber-planter resident on the island, was kind enough to receive the men and generally facilitate their work. The birds obtained are mostly species common to the lowlands of the southern part of the Malay Peninsula and the central east coast of Sumatra. *Columba argentina* Bp., and *Pipri-soma squalidum sordidum* Rob. and Kloss, are uncommon in collections. A few species including *Psittacula longicauda*, *Dissemurus paradiseus* and *Aplonis panayensis* run rather large on the island, thereby approaching the large races occupying the Anamba or Natuna Islands in the south China Sea. In the case of *Psittacula longicauda* the Bintang race seems identical with the undescribed large form found in the North Natuna Islands. We have also referred the Bintang race of *Aplonis* to a form described from the Anamba Islands. The existence on the island of two species of *Batrachostomus* and a trogon is interesting.

### TRERONIDAE

**Treron curvirostra curvirostra** (Gmel.) 4 ♂, 2 ♀.

Wings. ♂ 135, 135, 137, 140; ♀ 135, 139 mm.

**Treron fulvicollis fulvicollis** (Wagl.) 7 ♂, 4 ♀.

Wings. ♂ 146, 147, 150, 152, 148, 141; ♀ 148, 143, 146, 150 mm.

We cannot separate females of *fulvicollis* from those of *baramensis* Meyer, of northwest Borneo.

One of the males listed above has the two outer primaries in each wing white.

The average wing-length of the Bintang series is high.

**Treron vernans griseicapilla** Schleg. 6 ♂, 3 ♀.

Wings. ♂ 140, 150, 145, 146, 145, 145 (imm.); ♀ 139, 147, 139 mm.

<sup>1</sup> The birds of the Rhio Archipelago were listed by Dr. K. W. Dammerman in "Treubia", viii, 1926, p. 319: This author also gives a list of literature (p. 325) to which can be added.—C. Boden Kloss, "Some visits to Batam Island", Journ. Straits Br. Roy. Asiat. Soc., 50, 1908, p. 61; and F. N. Chasen, "Notes on the Fauna of Pulau Galang, Rhio Archipelago, Journ. Malayan Br. Roy. Asiat. Soc., 3, 1925, p. 92.

*Treron olax* (Temm.) 3 ♂ (1 imm.); 1 ♀.

Wings. ♂ 125, 128; ♀ 124 mm.

*Ptilinopus jambu* (Gmel.) 1 ♂.

Wing. 143 mm.

*Ducula aenea aenea* (L.) 15 ex.

The wing range of the males is 238—247 mm. and that of the females 229—237 mm.

#### COLUMBIDAE

*Columba argentina* Bp. 1 ♀.

Wing. 232 mm.

*Streptopelia chinensis tigrina* (Temm.) 1 ♂, 2 ♀.

Wings. ♂ 141; ♀ 140, 140 mm.

#### FALCONIDAE

*Haliastur indus intermedius* Gurney. 1 ♂, ♀ 1.

#### BUBONIDAE

*Ketupa ketupa ketupa* (Horsf.) 1 ♂.

*Ninox scutulata malaccensis* (Eyton) 1 ♂, 1 ♀.

The small resident race.

#### PSITTACIDAE

*Psittacula longicauda* subsp. 4 ♂, 2 ♀.

Wings. ♂ 155, 157, 165; ♀ 156, 152 mm.

Like that from the North Natuna Islands the Bintang race is large.

*Psittinus cyanurus cyanurus* (Forst.) 1 ♂, 1 ♀.

*Loriculus galgulus galgulus* (L.) 2 ♂.

#### PODARGIDAE

*Batrachostomus stellatus* (Gould) 1 ♂.

A pale bird in colour agreeing with one of the same sex from Pahang.

#### ALCEDINIDAE

*Ramphalcyon capensis malaccensis* Sharpe. 1 ♀.

We do not consider that *hydrophila* Oberh. described from Singapore Island is separable from *malaccensis* the type locality of which is Malacca.

*Alcedo meninting verreauxi* De la Berge. 1 ♂.

*Halcyon coromanda minor* Temm. and Schleg. 1 ♀.

#### BUCEROTIDAE

*Hydrocissa coronata convexa* (Temm.) 5 ♀ (2 imm.).

Birds from the various islands of the Rhio Archipelago have small casques and should perhaps be separated subspecifically.

#### MEROPIDAE

*Merops viridis viridis* L. 5 ♂.

#### CAPRIMULGIDAE

*Caprimulgus macrurus bimaculatus* Peale. 1 ♂, 3 ♀.

#### MICROPODIDAE

*Hemiprocne longipennis harterti* Stres. 4 ♂, 3 ♀.

*Hemiprocne comata comata* (Temm.) 1 ♂.

#### TROGONIDAE

*Harpactes duvauceli* (Temm.) 1 ♂, 2 ♀.

#### CUCULIDAE

*Surniculus lugubris brachyurus* Stres. 1 ♀.

The small resident race.

*Hierococcyx fugax fugax* (Horsf.) 1: ♀ 1 juv. ♂.

The juvenile was certainly bred on the island.

*Penthoceryx sonnerati fasciolatus* (S. Müll.) 1 ♀.

The dark Sumatran form which is also found in Singapore Island.

*Rhopodytes sumatranus* (Raffles) 1 ♂, 1 ♀.

*Chrysocolaptes lucidus chersonesus* Kloss. 3 ♂.

Wings. 153, 154, 156 mm.

*Mulleripicus pulverulentus pulverulentus* (Temm.) 3 ♂, 2 ♀.

#### EURLAIMIDAE

*Eurylaimus javanicus harterti* van Oort. 1 ♂, 1 ♀.

*Eurylaimus ochromalus ochromalus* Raffles) 2 ♂, 1 ♀.

**HIRUNDINIDAE**

*Hirundo javanica abbotti* (Oberh.) 1 ♂, 1 ♀.

**MUSCICAPIDAE**

*Muscitrea grisola* subsp. 1 ♂, 1 ♀.

In spite of our large series we find ourselves at present unable to divide this species into races (our reasons are given in full in Bull. Raff. Mus. IV, 1930, p. 51). A revision based on very extensive material is required.

*Hypothymis azurea prophata* Oberh. 4 ♂, 2 ♀.

*Terpsiphone paradisi affinis* (Blyth) 1 ♂.

In the chestnut phase.

**CAMPEPHAGIDAE**

*Coracina sumatrensis sumatrensis* (S. Müll.) 1 ♂, 1 ♀.

Wings. ♀ 154 mm. The male is so skinned that an accurate wing measurement cannot be taken, but it would certainly not be less than 160 mm.

**PYCNONOTIDAE**

*Aegithina viridissima viridissima* (Bp.) 2 ♂, 2 ♀; 1 ♂ imm.

*Iolo olivacea olivacea* Blyth 3 ♂, 2 ♀.

*Alphoixus phaeocephalus phaeocephalus* (Hartl.) 3 ♂.

*Pycnonotus goiavier personatus* (Hume) 2 ♀.

*Pycnonotus plumosus plumosus* Blyth. 1 ♂, 2 ♀.

*Pycnonotus simplex simplex* Less. 3 ♂, 1 ♀.

**TIMALIIDAE**

*Aethostoma rostratum rostratum* (Blyth) 3 ♂, 2 ♀.

*Malacopteron cinereum cinereum* Eyton. 4 ♂, 4 ♀.

*Anuropsis malaccensis malaccensis* (Hartl.) 5 ♂, 5 ♀.

*Stachyris maculata* (Temmm.) 5 ♂.

*Mixornis gularis gularis* (Horsf.) 12 ♂, 11 ♀.

**TURDIDAE**

*Copsychus saularis musicus* (Raffles) 2 ♂, 1 ♀.

*Kittacincla malabarica* subsp. 1 ♀.

**SYLVIIDAE**

*Orthotomus atrogularis atrogularis* Temm. 3 ♂, 1 ♀.

*Orthotomus ruficeps ruficeps* (Less.) 2 ♂, 3 ♀.

**LANIIDAE**

*Hemipus hirundinaceus* (Temmm.) 1 ♀.

**DICRURIDAE**

*Dissemurus paradiseus platurus* (Vieill.) 5 ♂, 6 ♀. 11 exs.

Wings of adults. ♂ 155, 154, 147, 148; ♀ 158, 146, 146 mm. The average wing-length of 149 mm. is rather high for this race.

**STURNIDAE**

*Gracula javana javana* (Cuv.) 5 ♂, 3 ♀.

Wings. ♂ 177, 177, 183, 174, 184; ♀ 181, 178 mm.

*Aplonis panayensis heterochlorus* (Oberh.) 3 ♂, 1 ♀.

Wings. ♂ 106, 103, 103; ♀ 98 mm.

**PLOCEIDAE**

*Munia atricapilla sinensis* Blyth. 5 ♂, 3 ♀.

*Passer montanus malaccensis* Dubois. 1 ex.

Much darker than any other member of this race we have seen.

**MOTACILLIDAE**

*Anthus richardi malayensis* Eyton. 3 ♂, 2 ♀.

**NECTARINIIDAE**

*Aethopyga siparaja siparaja* (Raffles) 5 ♂, 5 ♀.

*Leptocoma brasiliiana brasiliiana* (Gmel.) 11 ♂, 3 ♀.

*Leptocoma jugularis ornata* (Less.) 3 ♂, 1 ♀.

*Anthreptes malacensis malacensis* (Scop.) 8 ♂, 6 ♀.

*Arachnothera chrysogenys chrysogenys* Temm. 2 ♂, 2 ♀.

**DICAEIDAE**

*Prionochilus percussus ignicapillus* (Eyton) 1 ♂.

*Piprisoma squalidum sordidum* Rob. and Kloss 2 ♂.

*Dicaeum trigonostigma trigonostigma* (Scop.) 7 ♂, 6 ♀.

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## APPENDIX

Birds obtained in the Rhio Archipelago in 1908 by Messrs.  
H. C. Robinson and E. Seimund.

<i>Treron curvirostra curvirostra</i> (Gmel.)	Bintang.
<i>Treron vernans griseicapilla</i> Schleg.	Battam.
<i>Treron olax</i> (Temm.)	Battam.
<i>Ducula aenea aenea</i> (L.)	Karimon.
<i>Columba argentina</i> Bp.	Karimon.
<i>Myristicivora bicolor bicolor</i> (Scop.)	Karimon.
<i>Rallina fasciata</i> (Raffles)	Kundur.
<i>Esacus magnirostris scommophorus</i> Oberh.	Bintang.
<i>Charadrius alexandrinus peroni</i> Schleg.	Bintang.
<i>Numenius phaeopus variegatus</i> (Scop.)	Bintang.
<i>Ardea sumatrana sumatrana</i> Raffles	Bintang.
<i>Polioaetus ichthyaetus</i> (Horsf.)	Battam.
<i>Ninox scutulata malaccensis</i> (Eyton)	Battam, Karimon.
<i>Psittacula longicauda</i> (Bodd.)	Bintang.
<i>Psittinus cyanurus cyanurus</i> (Forst.)	Kundur.
<i>Batrachostomus affinis</i> Blyth	Bintang.
<i>Ramphalcyon capensis malaccensis</i> Sharpe.	Bintang; Battam; Kundur.
<i>Ceyx rufidorsus</i> Strickl.	Kundur.
<i>Lacedo pulchella pulchella</i> (Horsf.)	Bintang.
<i>Hydrocissa coronata convexa</i> (Temm.)	Pulau Merah, south-west of Karimon.
<i>Chaetura gigantea gigantea</i> (Temm.)	Karimon, Kundur.
<i>Hemiprocne longipennis harterti</i> Strese.	Battam.
<i>Dryobates moluccensis moluccensis</i> (Gmel.)	Battam.
<i>Dinopium javanense javanense</i> (Ljungh)	Bintang, Battam.
<i>Pitta megarhyncha</i> Schleg.	Bintang, Karimon.
<i>Cyornis rufigaster rufigaster</i> (Raffles)	Bintang.
<i>Mixornis gularis gularis</i> (Horsf.)	Bintang.
<i>Copsychus saularis musicus</i> (Raffles)	Pulau Tulang, south of Kari- mon.
<i>Aplonis panayensis heterochlorus</i> (Oberh.)	Bintang, Battam.
<i>Munia atricapilla sinensis</i> Blyth	Pulau Sauh, Rhio Straits.
<i>Anthreptes malaccensis malaccensis</i> (Scop.)	Bintang.
<i>Zosterops palpebrosa williamsoni</i> Rob. and Kloss.	Kundur.



Termitarium in Mangrove forest containing Kingfisher's nest.